

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 11. (canceled)

12. (new): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a judging device adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;

a detecting device adapted to detect a predetermined request from the other apparatus;

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate if information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection by said detecting device; and

a sending device which is adapted selectively to execute, in accordance with the judgment by said judging device, a first sending process of sending first information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, or a second sending process of sending second information to the other apparatus regardless of whether updating has been discriminated by said discrimination device.

13. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said discrimination device makes its discrimination in accordance with time

information included in the predetermined request.

14. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein, in a case in which access by the other apparatus is not restricted, said sending device sends the first information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and in a case in which access by the other apparatus is restricted, said sending device sends the second information to the other apparatus without performance of the discrimination by said discrimination device, wherein the second information is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

15. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said judging device makes its judgment in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

16. (new): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:
a judging device adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;
a detection device adapted to detect time information related to information possessed by the other apparatus;
a discrimination device adapted to discriminate whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection by said detection device; and

a sending device adapted to send, in a case in which access by the other apparatus is not restricted, first information to the other apparatus in accordance with a discrimination made by said discriminating device, and to send, in a case in which access by the other apparatus is restricted, second information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of the discrimination made by said discriminating device.

17. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case in which access by the other apparatus is restricted, said sending device sends the second data to the other apparatus without performance of the discrimination by said discrimination device.

18. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said judging device makes its judgment in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

19. (new): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the second information is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

20. (new): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:
a judging step of judging whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;

a detecting step of detecting a predetermined request from the other apparatus;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection in said detecting step; and

a sending step of selecting executing, in accordance with a judgment made in said judging step, a first sending process of sending first information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, or a second sending process of sending second information to the other apparatus regardless of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

21. (new): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a judging step of judging whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;

a detection step of detecting time information related to the information possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus is updated, in accordance with the detection in said detection step; and

a sending step of sending, in a case in which access by the other apparatus is not restricted, first information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination in said discriminating step, and in a case in which access by the other apparatus is

restricted, sending second information to the other apparatus regardless of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.